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LIBYA

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AL-QADHDHAFI INTERVIEWED BY KUWAITI PAPER

Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Jun 76 pp 13, 14 LD

[Report on interview given by Libyan leader Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli to 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Masa'id, proprietor of AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, and 'Abdallah ash-Shiti, chief editor of AN-NAHDH. Date not given.]

[Excerpts] [Question] Let us begin with the question of your differences with Egypt on the Sinai issue.

[Answer] I have expressed my opinion of the Sinai agreement frankly on many occasions. The fact is that I consider the Sinai agreement an imposition of humiliating conditions on the Arabs, particularly on Egypt. The Sinai agreement is like all other agreements imposed by the victorious on the vanquished. History is full of examples. When one side triumphs, it imposes its conditions on the other side, namely the vanquished. That was what happened with Egypt and the Sinai agreement. Israel and the Americans imposed humiliating conditions on Egypt. We will not forget the question of the crossing of the canal, the encirclement of the 3rd Army and the paralyzing of the defense force in return for breaking the encirclement. The Egyptian thinking was, right from the beginning, to accept the "conditions" on which the Sinai agreement was based.

Answering another question, the Libyan leader added: As-Sadat has always spoken of and reiterated his ideas about a war to set the issue in motion politically and not a "liberation" one. As-Sadat's ideas was actually to carry out a very limited war on the canal after which international parties would interfere, there would be a cease-fire and then all would be invited to arrive at a peaceful solution based on never raising the question of war again. I believe that is what is taking place now. I know and you know that the Americans will never be on the (side) of Egypt more than that of Israel. They deceived him. The Americans deceived him. They enabled Israel to consolidate its existence. Since the matter was just one of "activation and not liberation," the Americans told them: Exploit the military activation. They told Israel: Consolidate your gains. (Peace) should work in your favor. With this ploy, the Israelis were able to occupy new territories, cross to the west of the canal and encircle the 3d Army. They paralyzed Egypt's defense force. It became impossible for Egypt to continue a defensive war as it had in the first days of the battle. It could have continued. Thus President as-Sadat's talk about (activation) stopped. The result was the demand for international forces to separate the two armies and, prior to that, the dismissal of Foreign Minister (as-Zayyat).

The colonel then added: The fact is that at that time I was in Cairo with As-Sadat. 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and the chief of staff were with me. We were at the command getting ready to wage a long-term war. We talked to him about the need to continue the war and the decisive battle. We were wearing field uniforms. But we did not know what was (concealed). They told us: The Israelis have crossed the canal, (the Deversoir), and it is impossible to repulse them. As-Sadat told us: I do not want any fight. Finish. We told him: The Israelis are on the western bank of the canal. He said: I do not want to fight. I want a peaceful solution. I want to bring international forces. At that time we were with him, that is near him. The 3d Army was encircled. We said that the 3d Army should be supplied. He said that he agreed on that through the International Red Cross, even through Israel itself.

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If the capitulationists have relinquished the right of the Arab masses and have brought despondency on them, the outbidders have misled the masses and stirred in their hearts a false and deceptive hope by depicting themselves as being able to achieve through slogans what requires great sacrifices and efforts to attain.

However, the Arab masses are no longer deceived by the false stands of these outbidders whose practices will only bring calamity on them. Syria will remain the steadfast bastion and will remain loyal to the promises it has made to the Arab nation.

UAE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Jun 76 NC

[Text] UAE Foreign Minister Shaykh Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi arrived in Damascus this morning. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad, several senior Foreign Ministry officials, the UAE charge d'affairs in Damascus and the UAE Embassy staff.

In an airport statement Shaykh Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi said: I came to my country, Syria, carrying a verbal message from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to his brother, President Hafiz al-Asad, on the current situation. He added: This state which the Arab nation is currently experiencing makes it incumbent on us to increase our meetings for the sake of the higher Arab interests.

Meets With Khaddam, Riyad

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Jun 76 JN

[Excerpt] At 1230 today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi and Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Jun 76 JN

[Text] At 1915 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, who conveyed a message from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The discussion during this meeting, which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, dealt with the Lebanese crisis, the Arab situation, and the fraternal relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the UAE.

Makes Statement to SANA

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Jun 76 NC

[Text] Damascus--UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi has made a statement to a SANA correspondent affirming that he has found President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian officials conscious and appreciative of the serious and delicate stage through which the Arab nation is passing. He said that they also expressed their full readiness to cooperate with the Arab League and the Arab brothers to safeguard the supreme Arab interest in general and Lebanon in particular.

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Thus a helicopter would carry blood and medicines. Its landing site would be defined and it would land on the Israeli side. He said: All right. We saw that the situation was "bad" to the extent that supplies and provisions would not get to the encircled 3d Army except through the Israelis. Then came Israeli approval and after that there were the (tent of shame) negotiations at Kilo 101. The Sinai agreement was drawn up in this tent of shame. Kissinger played his ploy. The agreement stipulated that such and such would be done. In fact it did happen.

When we took our known stand, As-Sadat tried to picture me as insulting and cursing the Egyptian Army. His sole intention was to destroy the popularity of the First of September Revolution in our country. We were pained to see how the Egyptian officers and soldiers found themselves trapped. It is true that they fought courageously but they did not know that they were fighting in a (political trap). As you know, from the first night of the war (of crossing) I said that this (strategy) was wrong, wrong. In the speech I delivered on 7 October, I predicted all the (things) that happened later. I gave the Egyptian Army its due credit. But what As-Sadat did was an (unsound plan) and a strategy on which we had not agreed or were even convinced of. But when the battle began we know our duty. I said: At this moment (6 October), the Egyptian soldier is facing the Israeli soldier. Then the events took place. I personally knew that the strategy drawn up and implemented was (the imposition of the victorious conditions on the vanquished). As-Sadat thought that (military activization) would lead to the intervention of other countries and the holding of negotiations with Israel. The truth is naked and known.

[Question] Brother Colonel (incidentally, he lives this simple title more than any title), has the Sinai agreement and its impact any direct or indirect connection with the war in Lebanon?

As if expecting this question, he quickly answered: I believe that when events in Lebanon first began there was a certain connection. I am not the only one to say this; all political observers and analysts also say that when Lebanon's events first began they were intended as a coverup for the Sinai agreement and a means to distract the attention of the Arabs and the world to other events so that the "agreement" would pass. However, the problem in Lebanon suddenly took a serious turn and the result was what happened. While we expected Syria to stand on the side of the nationalist forces and the Palestinian resistance, its stand changed and, as a result, it found itself confronting the Palestinian resistance and the nationalist forces.

I have made this clear in my recent speech and in my statements. I have made my attitude toward the Syrian intervention clear and unequivocal. We said that is the aim was to strike at the Palestinian resistance, the Palestinian camps, and the nationalist forces this would be major national treason, of which we will never approve. We have acted on this basis. It is also on this basis that Prime Minister 'Abd as-Salam Jallud has been acting and has been carrying out his mission. He has been in close touch with all the developments there in order to have firsthand knowledge of the background of events and facts.

It is true that before that we were allies with Syria. At the beginning we thought that Syria was seeking something different from it has been seeking recently. We did not imagine that the situation would develop so quickly and against the resistance. How did this happen? We were with Syria when its intention was to establish peace and stop the fighting. But if Syria wants to do so at the expense of liquidating the resistance and, subsequently, liquidate the Palestine problem then we cannot remain silent. We have warned Syria against slipping into such a pitfall.

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[Question] Frankly, what is the nature of the Libyan role in Lebanon and what is the extent of your relations with the nationalist forces? Is it true that you support these forces materially and morally?

Speaking in a rather irritated tone, he said: The Libyan role? What does this mean? In fact in Lebanon there are well-organized nationalist forces which have been in existence for a long time. During the bloody events in 1958 we did not exist whereas the nationalist forces were already in existence. Therefore, the Lebanese people have always been interacting and their nationalist movement reacting to sectarianism, corruption and domestic strife. We did not create the revolution or the nationalist movement because it already existed. We, therefore, supported it. We stand behind it and give it and the resistance moral and material support. But what is happening there is not our responsibility. It is the responsibility of the nationalist forces, which express the people's will. We support the people's will [to struggle] for their dignity and freedom. It is the responsibility of the Lebanese forces themselves.

The conversation [with Al-Qadhdhafi] became ramified and, in light of current hot events in the area, we asked a question about the entry of Iraqi forces into Syria and the claim by Iraq that these forces went to "fulfill their holy task in the battlefield."

Speaking calmly, the colonel said: In fact this subject was (under consideration); it existed. We had made great efforts to coordinate and strengthen the eastern front with the enemy. We were enthusiastic about this project because we knew that Syria rejects a peaceful solution. We were trying to reconcile Iraq and Syria and coordinate between Libya, Algeria and the Palestinians and the Iraqi and Syrian forces. We were trying to make this grouping or this front assume its natural position in the confrontation with the enemy. We almost succeeded. In fact we were on the verge of an imminent agreement. At the time when we almost succeeded in the (subject) agreed upon, when Syria was supposed to declare its refusal to adhere to Security Council Resolutions no 242 and 338, and the Iraqi forces were supposed to enter the Golan and a battle with Israel begin, we were surprised by the developments of the situation in Lebanon and by the turn of events there. Was this timed to be so? Frankly, had this not happened we would have actually entered the (front) facing the enemy.

[Question] We told Chairman al-Qadhdhafi: Brother Mu'ammarr, you are accused of supporting any world movement even if it had nothing to do with the Arabs and their fateful issue. Is this a strategy that you follow? We mentioned here as an example Northern Ireland, the Philippines and other places.

[Answer] They are short sighted. Only superficial people think that such actions and behavior on our part are acts of madness or irresponsibility. This shows their superficiality. Supporting right and freedom in every place is not an irresponsible action nor is it interference. It is a support for the people's will and for right and human justice everywhere.

Our revolution is the result of our people's free will. Our stands emanate from this will and from our conscience as well as from our sense of duty. Hence our support for the resistance and the nationalist forces in Lebanon and for the people's will in the world.

Replying to a question, Chairman al-Qadhdhafi agreed that the embracing of the Palestinians by the Egyptian regime and President as-Sadat in the present circumstances and the reopening of the Palestinian broadcast from Cairo was in order to "spite" the Syrians and was done to exploit the dispute and the fighting between the resistance and Syria.

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[Question] What about the military base known as 11 June which you recently inaugurated near the Tunisian borders?

[Answer] The Libyan chairman said: It is a nationalist [wataniyah] base and does not constitute a threat to North Africa. It is a base within whose range falls any target in the area. It is a base for helping the Tunisian people. Tunisia had apprehensions about this base. The Tunisians carried out reconnaissance operations in order to find out the nature and the truth about this base. The (American intelligence) misled the Tunisians into believing that the Libyans are preparing for an all-out attack on Tunisia. But the Tunisians have seen the truth for themselves and have been assured of the reality of the base. They have realized that the base, despite its strength, importance, and powerful structure in northern Africa, is a support and a shield for the Tunisian people and for every sisterly country in North Africa.

He stressed that the Libyan people and Tunisian people are one. The Libyan chairman asserted that the peoples' will is always triumphant.

[Question] Brother Colonel, we would like to ask you frankly: Why did Libya, and you personally, fail in every plan or experiment for uniting with some of the Arab countries like Egypt and Tunisia, for example?

[Answer] Replying curtly, he said: This was natural. All the regimes which we sought to unite with felt that they are incompatible with the Libyan regime. It is difficult for the mentality that dominates those regimes to (digest) unity or federation plans. Even if I had told the head of any of the regimes with whom our plans for union failed "you be the president," he would say no, because as long as the Libyan regime is a popular revolutionary regime he would be afraid. This is a natural thing. They are afraid and they run away from union.

[Question] What happened to the tripartite union between Egypt, Syria and Libya?

[Answer] He immediately answered: This tripartite confederation was stillborn. We are not sorry about it.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES GABONESE ENVOY

Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Jun 76 JN

[Text] Revolution leader Brother Col Mu'ammr al-Qadhdhafi this morning received in his office at the RCC headquarters a delegation from the Gabon Republic headed by Adviser to the President of the Republic for Political Affairs (Najomo Obyang). (Obyang) handed Al-Qadhdhafi a message from Gabon President Omar Bongo. The meeting was attended by the members of the Gabon delegation, the minister of state for Revolution Command Council affairs, and the assistant under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

The Gabon president's adviser left Tripoli this evening for home at the end of a 3-day visit to the Libyan Arab Republic.

ARNA ON ANTI-LIBYA, ANTI-AL-QADHDHAFI CAMPAIGN

Tripoli ARNA in English 1114 GMT 21 Jun 76 LD

[Text] Tripoli, LAR, June 21, ARNA--The ARAB REVOLUTION NEWS AGENCY (ARNA) has promised the citizens to publish the official Egyptian media broadcasts of spiteful and malevolent campaigns against the people of the Libyan Arab Republic.

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Despite the immediate response of the Libyan Arab information media to the appeal of the student unions in both countries, to stop the information campaigns which, originally, we had not started, the Egyptian media are still going on with their campaign against our Libyan Arab people and their leadership, the symbol of their struggle, achievements and aspirations for a better future on the road of freedom, socialism and unity.

The Cairo Middle East broadcasting station has recently specified a programme for instigation against the leader of the revolution, calling for his liquidation, ridiculing the celebrations of Eviction Day and the great June 11 base, sneering at the popular rallies organised by the masses of the Libyan Arab people and the tribal delegations which are still calling on the leader of the revolution to renew their allegiance and confirm their adherence to his leadership, to their revolution and its great objectives.

The ARNA political editor commented on the programme describing it as a link in a chain of venomous and antagonistic campaigns in which the official Egyptian information media have specialised, the content of which ARNA has committed itself to publish. Such trumpets of Egyptian propaganda, he said, have forgotten that our Libyan Arab people who believe in their revolution and adhere to their historical leadership, are not accustomed to get orders from outside.

They received no orders when they confronted the fascist Italian invasion, as they received no orders when they broke out the First of September Revolution, nor they got [as received] orders from outside when they embraced their revolutionary leadership and declared their allegiance to it, proceeding with it to transform the desert into green plantations, establishing factories, building thousands of housing units, schools, universities and hospitals, roads and establishing harbours and airports.

The masses of the great First of September Revolution are the best to know about their leadership, and the best to know about what Libya was like before the revolution, a vanguard for the pan-Arab struggle, unitary action and liberation struggle in the Arab homeland and the whole of the Third World, the editor continued.

The continuation of antagonistic campaigns against the Libyan Arab people and their historical leadership is confirmed evidence of the incapability to understand the reality of what is going on in the land of the great Fatah revolution.... To understand the cohesion of the masses and their revolutionary leadership in a march of work and building the positive results of which are emerging in every site of a civilization cherished by all and protected by all.

Concluding the ARNA editor said that these popular marches and allegiance documents which are still flooding the leader of the revolution with sentiments of love, devotion and support, are but a practical reply to all the campaigns of hate and doubt and all the subversive efforts which will backfire at their launchers.